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Therman Michael H. Powell:
Im writing to you as a cetizin of

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The growth of the media monophy in

commission will abide by my plea

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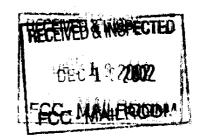
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David and Linda Koppel P. O Box 416 Redwood Valley, CA 95470

December 11,2002

Michael Powell, FCC Chair Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street SW Washington, DC 20554

## RE: PROTECT MEDIA DEMOCRACY



#### To Chairman Powell:

America's airwaves belong to the American people, and the FCC is mandated to manage them in the public interest. Independent, critical and genuinely representative media are crucial to a healthy democracy. Without them, citizens lose the means to control and participate in the public debate that sets the nation's political agenda. In the absence of an effective regulatory agency, corporate control of the media damages our democracy,

I want the FCC to protect the public interest by maintaining:

- The newspaper/broadcast cross-ownership rule to continue *to* prevent owners of a broadcast station from owning daily newspapers in the same market.
- A national broadcast ownership cap to prevent one company from owning broadcast stations that reach more than 35% of U.S. households.
- The local radio ownership rule to cap the number of radio stations a company can own in a single listening area to eight or less, depending on size.
- Duopoly rule to limit a company to owning two broadcast TV stations in a given market.
- Dual network rule to bar the major TV networks from merging with each other.

Chain ownership of newspapers, TV and radio stations would likely increase dramatically with media deregulation, resulting in a drop in news quality. **As** it is, dissenting political viewpoints are routinely marginalized in national mainstream media. The interests and perspectives of ininorities, immigrants, women and others are under represented. We need more public affairs programs and local broadcasts that only smaller, niche and regional media outlets can provide.

I urge you to make a stand for democracy, to preserve and strengthen the rules that limit media consolidation and promote public access to media in your Biennial Review.

Sincerely,

cops.

Koppel

Marc Komer 17400 Shafer Ranch Rd. Willits, CA 95490

December 11, 2002

Michael Powell, FCC Chair Federal Communications Commission **445** 12th Street SW Washington, DC 20554



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DATE:

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I urge you to make a stand **for** democracy, **to** preserve and strengthen the rules that limit media consolidation and promote public access **to** media in your Bjennial Review.

Marc Komer

Sincerely.

Diane Koenig 207 Twin Bridge Rd. Copake, NY 12516

December

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Chairman Michael K. Powell Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street SW Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell.

Commercial broadcasting has gone through stunning negative changes in recent years, as deregulation and consolidation have shifted the balance of power to a small handful of companies with interests and investments spread across the media landscape. We now live in a world dominated **by** profit-driven media conglomerates more interested in delivering viewers to advertisers than in serving the needs of the public.

Independent. critical and genuinely representative media are crucial to a healthy democracy; without them, citizens lose the means to control and participatein the public debate that sets the nation's political agenda. Sadly, this is already happening: In the absence **of** an effective regulatory agency, corporate control of the media is damaging our democracy.

**This** country's airwaves belong to the American people, and the FCC is supposed to manage them in the public interest. That's why it's **so** important that the FCC put the brakes on its hasty review and encourage **a** real debate – one that engages the public and public advocacy groups, not just industry "experts."

I am writing this letter to ask you to preserve and strengthen the rules that limit media consolidation, and to promote public access to media.

It's time for a real debate

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Sincerely,

Diane Koenig

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To:

Subject:

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mpowell@fcc.gov

filing comments/ broadcast ownership rules

Commissioner Powell:

It is extremely difficult for the public to file comments about proposed rulemaking with the commission. I've now spent 1.5 hours trying to e-file a comment--without success. I believe that this is ridiculous. I am now going to include my comment with this email and, also. I will try to mail it. The difficulty with which one may submit comments to the commission makes me believe that the commission wishes to receive no comments. If the commission wished to receive comments, it would simply allow the public to send a simple email comment. If you desired particular information in the email, you could easily

My comment is in regards to the proposed changes in the broadcast ownership rules which enhance the ability of media to merge or consolidate with other media. Specifically, I oppose the ability of television companies to purchase and merge with radio companies and newspapers and I opposed any loosening of the rules which prohibits mergers within one kind of media. I also want to see those rules which have already been relaxed reinstated to prevent further consolidation within the media. This is fundamental to the continuation of our democracy. We must not have our media owned and controlled by just a few hands. This is tantamount to state-owned and controlled media. There are already 113 fewer owners of radio stations due to past deregulation of monopoly laws promulgated by the FCC. This trend must be reversed. Thus, I oppose any deregulation of the Television-Radio Cross-Ownership Rule; the Dual Network Rule; the Local Television Ownership Rule; and the National Television Ownership Rule.

Thank you for considering my comment.

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Ms. Susan E. Stewart 4532 41st Ave., S.W. Seattle, WA 98116

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